



SEMINOLE COUNTY TRAILS AND GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

August 21, 2003

Minutes

Members in attendance:

Tony Tizzio
Wally Hill
Wiley Dykes, Sr.
Michael Martin
Roger Cooper
Andrea Holman
Pat Burkett
Al Stimac
Lisa Giltner

Staff in attendance:

Mark Lichtenheld
Cindy Matheny
Joe Gasparini
Heidi Terry
Lenor McLean

Mr. Tizzio called the meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Mr. Stimac made a motion to approve the minutes of June 26, 2003, as corrected. Second by Roger Cooper.

Ms. Burkett requested the minutes reflect her attendance at the meeting. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as corrected.

Related reports:

BPAC – Ms. Matheny did not have a report.

Natural Lands – Ms. Burkett reported on the proposed land swap between Seminole County and a car dealership along US 17/92.

FNST – Mr. Dykes reported that the FNST is being re-routed at the west end to go past Sylvan Lake Park. Mr. Hill also had questions about “over-night” usage of

trails and parks facilities by hikers. The committee established that that was a question that needed to be raised with the Parks Department.

Bike Issues – No report

DRC – No report

Coordination/Planning – No report

OGT/FDOT – Mr. Lichtenheld reported that Lindsey Benedict, the previous coordinator at the Office of Greenways and Trails in Tallahassee was not longer working for the State. Our new liaison is Ms. Capehart Perkins. There will also be updates on the State Website including interactive maps.

Design & Construction – Mr. Dykes asked for an update on the Econ River Bridge construction. Mr. Lichtenheld replied that there were some multi-jurisdictional land use issues between Seminole County and the St. John' River Water Management District that had to be taken care of first. However; if the project does not get underway by January 2004, the grant money allocated will be withdrawn. Ms. McLean mentioned that the water level of the Econ River does not pose a problem.

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the Cross Seminole Trail South Section is currently at 100% design. He explained to the committee that the Special Projects Team is in the process of gathering information on different ways to dispose of arsenic traces that were discovered in some dirt samples within the corridor.

The middle section of the Cross Seminole Trail is being designed in-house. At the moment staff is waiting for an "order of taking" regarding some FDOT right-of-way.

The S.R 434 Cross Seminole Trail Overpass is currently under construction. This overpass will cross S.R. 434 approximately ½ mile east of Tuskawilla Road and accommodate pedestrians, rollerbladers, bicyclists and equestrians. Staff is presently researching different stone imprint types that will make this bridge cost effective as well as aesthetically pleasing. Ms Burkett asked if the signage on the bridge will reflect that it is part of the Cross Seminole Trail and Mr. Lichtenheld replied that the whole name will be mounted on the overpass. Ms. Giltner mentioned the need for advertising to equestrian users that this overpass will become available next year.

Ms. Gennell asked about the Public Meeting that is going to be held on Thursday, August 28, 2003 at 6:30 P.M. at Highlands Elementary School. Ms. McLean explained that the meeting was being held regarding the alignment of the Cross Seminole Trail Connector (Wade St. n. to Environmental Studies Ctr. at CR 419 & Osprey Trail then west and north to the Greenway Blvd./Crossings

Trail intersection). Ms. McLean also spoke about the process of designing and constructing this stretch of trail and elaborated on the pending right-of-way and easement issues that Seminole County will be facing. The projected start of construction is scheduled for August of 2004 (for more information, please see the project schedule at www.co.seminole.fl.us/trails/trails_construction.asp).

Ms. Holman brought forth concerns about the Seminole Wekiva Trail crossing at Lake Mary Boulevard and International Parkway. Mr. Lichtenheld, after some discussion offered to get some input from the Traffic Engineering Division and report to the group at the next meeting.

Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the Markham Trailhead will be re-bid because of some problems with the original bid package. Mr. Stimac asked how users will be able to cross the road to get from the trailhead to the trail which is across the street and Mr. Lichtenheld replied that the design calls for a signalized, at-grade crossing.

The design and engineering process has been completed on the Kewannee Trail and the project will go out to bid very shortly.

Mr. Stimac asked about the status of the grade repairs of the I-4 Trail Overpass and Mr. Lichtenheld reported that the grades would be fixed soon.

Old Business:

Subcommittee News:

Speakers Bureau Committee:

Mr. Martin had questions about setting up the Speakers Bureau Subcommittee. Ms. Matheny explained that Seminole County could not loan out equipment like PowerPoint or slide projectors and that the committee members could not represent Seminole County at functions. Committee members, however, could represent the advisory committee and share information about trails. If the Speakers bureau Committee finds it useful to own the equipment then the funds could be raised through the "Friends of the Trails" program. Mr. Martin and Ms. Giltner mentioned that they wanted to go with an employee to observe a presentation.

Trails Week Committee:

Mr. Tizzio introduced Mr. Jim Berko from the Seminole Community Mental Health Center. Mr. Berko said that October was also "Mental Health Awareness Month" and said he was curious as to the possibility of having a "Walk for Mental Health" event on one of the Seminole County Trails. Ms Matheny replied that Seminole County could not sponsor such an event but could try to advertise it when more

information becomes available. The activities and events that Seminole County are actively trying to coordinate are as follows:

- Seminole Wekiva Trail invasive plant species cleanup
- Rollerblader clinic at the I-4 Trail Overpass

Ms. Matheny notified the Committee that staff will be asking for volunteers to help with these events. Ms. Burkett asked if these events could be held during the week because Seminole County Schools will be closed from October 9, 2003 – October 19, 2003. Mr. Tizzio stated that the committee members should get started on these events as soon as possible. Ms. Matheny handed out copies of a letter from the Office of Greenways and Trails describing Trails month.

Friends of Trails Committee:

Mark Lichtenheld reported that Mr. Donihi has met with Suzy Goldman (Director of Seminole County Library and Leisure Services) about the proposed shift from being an advisory committee to a more active role as “Friends of the Trails” which could include fundraising and soliciting. He will update the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Special Populations Trail Update:

Mr. Tizzio described his interest about a trail that is designed for the disabled in Hernando County. Ms. Matheny reported that she drove to Hernando County to look at this trail and found that it was geared more towards the mentally challenged population. It was not wheelchair accessible and technically not more than a nature trail through rough terrain. Furthermore, she mentioned that a meeting took place between Mr. Tizzio, Mr. Kevin Grace, Frank Van Pelt, and herself to discuss the trail and that all parties came to the conclusion that even though Seminole County can provide signage that the paved trails are wheelchair accessible and perhaps enhance an existing section of a trail, it could not build a trails specifically for one user group. Ms. McLean noted that she would get more information and alternatives and report back to the committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Mr. Martin mentioned that a section of the Touchstone Trail had markers in Braille for the sight impaired and other features. Mr. Tizzio said that he thinks such a specialized trail section could distinguish Seminole County. Ms. Gennell mentioned that the funding would be easier to come by if it were coupled with an educational facility such as the Environmental Studies Center. Mr. Tizzio asked if the availability of grants would be greater in that case. Ms. Matheny reported that she will be having monthly meetings with the Seminole County Grants staff and that she will try and coordinate a combined grant application effort for this endeavor. Ms. Burkett said that she believes the potential for volunteers and sponsors at the Environmental Studies Center is great. Mr. Martin mentioned that the E.S.C. is located in the Heart of Seminole County and Ms. Gennell described

it as majestic. Mr. Tizzio stated that he is proud of Seminole County and the direction it is taking.

Ms. Burkett discussed the need for additional boardwalk at the E.S.C. and Ms. Gennell added that a field trip to the E.S.C. could be beneficial to committee members. She added that Ms. Burkett could possibly arrange for a presentation about the history of the E.S.C. Mr. Gasparini added to the discussion about the addition of boardwalks leading to Lake Jesup by mentioning the high cost of boardwalks. Ms. Burkett thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for removing some of the old parts of boardwalk that had become a safety issue. Ms. Burkett added that the new E.S.C. building, currently under construction, will not be completed until March, 2004. The field trip idea was placed on hold for now.

Ms. Holman announced that she is taking part in a “bike to the beach” event and solicited information about over-night parking on Seminole County Trailheads. Mr. Lichtenheld replied that generally the trails, which includes trailheads, were open from dawn until dusk, and that special arrangements had to be addressed with the Parks Department. Mr. Gasparini agreed.

NEW BUSINESS

F.R.D.A.P. Grant

Ms. Matheny reported that Seminole County would like to apply for a F.R.D.A.P. Grant for the Snowhill Trailhead (Flagler Trail). One of the requirements for this grant is that it needs to be brought before the Advisory Board and discussed among the members.

Lisa Giltner asked if there was not an existing trailhead in or near that location. Ms. Giltner voiced her concern regarding the design of the trailhead. Unloading horses on concrete, for instance, is not something that horse owners will do, in her opinion. She expressed that, in her opinion, the design of the trailhead will discourage its use by equestrian users. She also mentioned that the equestrian users would probably seek out the existing trailhead and that Seminole County should focus on enhancing the existing trailhead. She feels the space allocated for horse trailer parking and money spent on the Snowhill Trailhead for said trailers would be wasted. Mr. Lichtenheld, meanwhile, explained that the design drawing was brought before the committee members at a previous meeting. He mentioned that the site is very treed and that one of Seminole County’s goals was to destroy as little vegetation as possible. Mr. Cooper noted that equestrian trailer parking was possible at the Black Hammock Trailhead on the Cross Seminole Trail. Mr. Lichtenheld spoke about the Jetta Point purchase but Mr. Gasparini made it clear that Seminole County is planning an athletic facility there and that there really wouldn’t be any room for trail parking.

The committee indicated their consensus for pursuing the F.R.D.A.P. grant for the Snowhill trailhead.

Mr. Tizzio announced that items for future meeting agendas should be sent to him. Mr. Cooper added that the August agenda was not yet posted on the internet site. Ms. Terry explained that she was out of the office during that week and that it would be added along with the August minutes. Ms. Holman said that the word "unofficial" should be added to the internet site next to the word "minutes" until after the committee approved said minutes at the next meeting.

Ms. Holman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Stimac. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:56 P.M.

**The next meeting will be tentatively held on September 25, 2003 at 7:00 P.M. at the County Services Building, Room 3024
(Please check the trails website for updates or changes
(www.co.seminole.fl.us/trails)).**